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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 BIB-01 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /069 W

----- 008403

R 230955Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2464

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RO, UR

SUBJECT: MORE ROMANIAN NATIONALISM

REF: BUCHAREST 1413; (B) STATE 080904

1. SUMMARY: SEVERAL MORE KEY PRESS ARTICLES HAVE UNDERScored THE TONE OF NATIONALISTIC ASSERTIVENESS AND RESISTANCE TO SOVIET IDEOLOGICAL COORDINATION WHICH EMERGED IN CEAUSESCU'S MARCH 28 SPEECH. END SUMMARY.

2. SCINTEIA'S APRIL 22 EDITORIAL CELEBRATING LENIN'S 105TH BIRTHDAY, AS IN PAST, PAID HOMAGE LESS TO VLADIMIR ILYICH THAN TO WHICHEVER OF HIS CITATIONS BACK UP ROMANIA'S PRESENT-
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DAY POLICIES. EDITORIAL ASSERTS LENIN OPPOSED THINKING OF

MARXISM AS A "CATECHISM OF ABSOLUTE TRUTH", AS WELL AS "TENDENCIES TO FETISHISM AND DOGMATIZING"; IDEAS VALID IN MARX'S DAY CANNOT BE APPLIED LITERALLY IN NEW STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT. EDITORIAL QUOTES CEAUSESCU THAT CONCRETE SOLUTIONS FOR PRESENT PROBLEMS WILL NOT BE FOUND IN "THOUGHTS OF 100 OR 50 YEARS AGO" BUT ONLY BY TAKING ACCOUNT OF "IMMENSE VARIETY" AND "INFINITE DIVERSITY" OF SPECIFIC LOCAL CONDITIONS.

3. ON NATIONAL ISSUE, HOWEVER, EDITORIAL WAS SHARPER THAN IN PAST TWO YEARS TOWARD SOVIETS, NOTING LENIN GAVE SPECIAL ATTENTION NOT ONLY TO NATIONAL PROBLEM, "NATURAL NEED" TO STRENGTHEN NATION

ON ITS IMPORTANT ROLE EVEN AFTER TRIUMPH OF WORLD COMMUNISM, BUT ALSO TO FIGHT AGAINST "NATIONAL NILHILISM", "ATTEMPTS TO DISCOUNT LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF DIFFERENT NATIONS", "TENDENCIES TOWARD HEGEMONISM" AND "GREAT-POWER CHAUVINISM". EDITORIAL NOTES LENIN'S DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE NATIONALISM OF OPPRESSED NATIONS AND THAT OF OPPRESSORS, THE LATTER FEEDING NATIONAL POLICY OF DOMINATION". LENIN IS QUOTED TO EFFECT THAT NOTHING HAMPERS CLASS SOLIDARITY LIKE "NATIONAL INJUSTICE". EDITORIAL, ALONG WITH USUAL CLAIM THAT "PREOCCUPATION FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT" SHOULD NEVER BE EQUATED WITH "NATIONALISM" AND DOES NOT CONTRADICT PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM, NOTES LENIN ALSO DEcriED "TENDENCIES TOWARD SECTARIANISM" IN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST PARTY RELATIONS.

4. USUAL CEREMONIAL MENTIONING OF LENIN PRODUCED SPEECH APRIL 22 BY DIRECTOR OF PARTY HISTORY INSTITUTE POPESCU-PUTURI WHICH, WHILE USING SOME OF ABOVE THEMES, IN BALANCING ACT DEVOTED ABOUT TWICE AS MUCH SPACE TO ALLEGEDLY GOOD USSR-ROMANIAN RELATIONS. SOVIET GALA BROUGHT OUT PARTY IDEOLOGICAL SECRETARY BURTICA, HIGHEST RANK IN LAST TWO YEARS.

5. MEANWHILE, LEAD IDEOLOGICAL ARTICLE BY DEPUTY EDITOR ION MITRAN (BROTHER OF ROMANIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR IN WASHINGTON) IN PARTY THEORETICAL/POLITICAL JOURNAL ERA SOCIALISTA (NO. 8) REHASHES THEMES OF CEAUSESCU'S MARCH 28 SPEECH (REFTEL A). MITRAN AGAIN HITS ALLEGED ATTEMPTS IN CONTEMPORARY (PRESUMABLY INTER-COMMUNIST) IDEOLOGICAL "DEBATES" AND IN "FOREIGN LITERATURE" TO PERPETRATE "FALSIFIED DISTORTED HISTORICAL INTERPRETATIONS" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH JUSTIFY "INEQUITABLE STATES OF AFFAIRS PAST AND PRESENT" INCLUDING "DETACHING OR DISMEMBERING" NATIONAL TERRITORY WHILE PORTRAYING SUCH ACTIONS AS "PROGRESSIVE". ALONG WITH CONVENTIONAL POINTS, HE JABS SOVIETS BY WARNING AGAINST "ABSOLUTIZING OR IGNORING" OF GENERAL LAWS AND SPECIFIC CONDITIONS WHICH MAY "PREJUDICE IDEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES", AND AGAINST "ANY TENDENCY WHICH MIGHT INSTITUTE A MONOPOLY OVER INTERPRETATION OF THEORY OR GENERALIZATION OF

REVOLUTIONARY EXPERIENCE".

6. COMMENT: ABOVE COMMENTARY, WHICH IS IN PART VINTAGE GOR RHETORIC, AMOUNTS TO FURTHER REFLECTION OF ROMANIAN DISENCHANTMENT WITH MATTERS AT ON-GOING COMMUNIST IDEOLOGICAL FORUMS. GOR GAVE SNUB TO BERLIN MEETING OF EUROPEAN CP EDITORIAL COMMISSION (APRIL 8-10) BY RUNNING SHORT ACCOUNTS ABOUT IT NOT IN PARTY PAPER SCINTEIA BUT IN ROMANIA LIBERA, THE OTHER MAIN CENTRAL DAILY. FURTHER TALK AGAINST "HISTORICAL DISTORTION" AND "DISMEMBERMENT" AGAIN SUGGESTS THAT ROMANIANS ARE UNHAPPY ABOUT PRESUMED HUNGARIAN OR SOVIET COMMENT CONCERNING TRANSYLVANIA OR BESSARABIA. IN RECENT CONVERSATION, BULGARIAN DCM PUT MONEY ON TRANSYLVANIA, ALTHOUGH WAS UNABLE TO SPECIFY WHERE SUCH HISTORICAL" DEBATES MIGHT BE TAKING PLACE. CLEARLY, HOWEVER, ROMANIAN PUBLIC DEFENSIVENESS HAS SHARPENED AND SOVIETS AND EE PARTNERS ARE BEING INDIRECTLY CHARGED, IN EFFECT, WITH BEING OLD-FASHIONED, HEGEMONISTIC, AND TO BOOT WRONG ON KEY THEORETICAL MATTERS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ANTISOVIET, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUCHAR01755
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750142-0473
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750422/aaaaauak.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BUCHAREST 1413, 75 STATE 080904
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <05 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORE ROMANIAN NATIONALISM
TAGS: PFOR, RO, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006